

**California Department of Conservation
Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program**

2002 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: San Benito

FIELD MAPPER(S): Jan Carey

IMAGERY:

source: NASA-Ames Research
date: 7 Sept 2001
scale: 1:130,000
film type: CIR
coverage gap : none
additional imagery: SPOT 2000 satellite images

WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES: *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 2000 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made or related GIS data referenced while conducting the 2002 update.*

➤ *local review comments:* none
cities:
county:
others:

➤ *personal contacts:*
Michele Satterlee, County Executive Director, USDA Farm Service Bureau

➤ *websites:* <http://www.san-benito.ca.us>

2000-2002 CHANGES*: *Please summarize the most common changes to the maps. List representative locations (quads) of each type of change encountered. Make sure to list and describe particularly large, unusual or notable changes and give estimates of the acreage involved.*

Notes:

This is the first digital update for San Benito County. Using improved digital resources, more accurate boundaries were drawn. Therefore many smaller adjustments were made in all categories throughout the county.

This is also the first update of this county in which we obtained imagery with complete coverage of the entire mapped area. Consequently we were able to include farmed areas not shown in previous updates.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land:** 10 changes.

The City of Hollister had four housing additions for a total of approximately 110 acres (Hollister quad, 36121G4). There are two housing additions in the town of Tres Pinos for a total of approximately 30 acres (Tres Pinos quad, 36121G3). A school and adjacent athletic fields were added as well as a new ag processing plant near San Juan Bautista (Chittenden quad, 36121H5).

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Urban Land:** 8 changes.

The most notable change in this category is an approximately 60 acre addition to the Los Larios housing subdivision near San Juan Bautista (San Juan Bautista quad, 36121G5). The rest of the changes are smaller housing additions as well as density adjustments.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Local or Grazing Land:** 34 changes.

This category has the most notable acreage changes. Following a trend reported last update; there are many areas of irrigated farmland left unplanted or fallow for three or more update cycles. The acreage involved can be sizable. For instance, there is approximately 520 acres of conversions to the Grazing Land category on the San Felipe quad (36121H4), 540 acres on the Tres Pinos quad, 560 acres on the Quien Sabe Valley quad (36121G2), 610 acres on the San Benito quad (36121E1), and 300 acres on the Panoche quad (36120E7).

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land:** 18 changes

The changes are primarily farmland that has gone fallow or idle for 3 or more update cycles. Some changes are due to the inclusion previously unmapped ranchettes that was possible with the digital imagery (this does not reflect new construction). One change was an unpaved lot located behind a winery and processing plant. One change was due to the inclusion of a riparian area.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland:** 19 changes.

These changes reflect new agriculture added since last update as well as established agriculture. Because of the first-time full photo coverage of this county, we are able to accurately map the established agriculture in certain parts of the county unreported up to now. Most notable are the Topo and Bitterwater Valleys (over 750 acres)(Topo Valley, 36121D1, and Lonoak, 36120C8 quads).

New agriculture includes over 560 acres of wine grapevines primarily in the Tres Pinos and Paicines (36121F3 quad) areas and over 510 acres of grains (Cherry Peak, 36121F2, and Three Sisters, 36121H3 quads).

➤ **Non-irrigated and/or Grazing to Other Land:** 7 changes.

Five of these changes are due to the delineation of rural residential (ranchette) areas that do not reflect new construction. Two changes are the additions of mine areas and a small lake.

➤ **Unusual:** 15 changes.

Grazing to Local: 5 changes. Additions of non-irrigated grains.

Prime to Local: 2 changes. Orchards in the boron-affected designated area.

Other to Grazing: 1 change. Boundary adjustment.

Urban to Grazing and Other Land: 7 changes. Urban boundary adjustments are due to more accurate imagery digital update process.

PROBLEM AREAS: *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2004? Why?* Continue to monitor the area designated as boron affected (see comments).

OUT OF DATE BASE MAPS: *Please list any base maps used for update or publication of this county which are woefully out of date due to extensive new development, road construction, etc.* None.

LABOR ESTIMATE: *Please estimate the amount of time spent on the following tasks.*
photo interpretation, start date: 12/19/02 (suspended work to begin San Bernardino)
photo interpretation, number of days: 18
ground truthing dates: 5/14/03 to 5/16/03
days for map compilation and clean up: 7

* **Note:** **Irrigated Farmland** = Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance or Unique Farmland; **Local** = Farmland of Local Importance

Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:

www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp